

CLAIM LISTING

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of ~~monitoring expression of one or more genes~~ identifying a gene associated with oral cancer ~~in one or more cells~~, comprising:

contacting ~~[[an]]~~ a first array of probes with a first population of nucleic acids derived from a human subject from one or more cells obtained from malignant oral tissue;

contacting a second array of probes with a second population of nucleic acids derived from the human subject from one or more cells obtained from normal oral tissue; and

determining relative hybridization of the first array of probes to the first population of nucleic acids relative to hybridization of the second array of probes to the second population of nucleic acids, wherein a gene that hybridizes differently is associated with oral cancer.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method of expression monitoring comprising[[,]]:

contacting a first array of probes with a first population of nucleic acids derived from at least one cell derived from normal tissue from a human subject;

contacting a second array of probes with a second population of nucleic acids derived from at least one cell derived from malignant oral tissue from the human subject; and

determining ~~the relative~~ binding of the first array of probes to the nucleic acids from the first population relative to the binding of the second array of probes to the nucleic acids from the second population ~~and second populations~~ to identify at least one probe binding to a gene that is differentially expressed between the first and second populations.

Claims 3-6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method of diagnosing a human subject with oral cancer, the method comprising ~~comparing~~:

detecting the level of expression of ~~at least one~~ a marker selected from a group of markers associated with oral cancer in a test sample from a the human subject; and

detecting the ~~normal~~ level of expression of the marker in a control sample from normal tissue from the human subject,

wherein ~~a significant difference between~~ the level of expression of the marker in the control sample differs from the level of expression of the marker in the test sample ~~subject and the control sample from normal tissue is an indication that~~ when the subject is afflicted with oral cancer.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 7, wherein the sample from the subject comprises cells obtained from the subject.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the cells are obtained from oral tissue.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the cells are obtained from blood cells.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7, wherein the levels of expression of the marker in the control sample and in the test sample are is assessed by a method comprising:

contacting a first array of probes with a first population of nucleic acids derived from one or more cells from ~~[[a]] the test sample subject;~~

contacting a second array of probes with a second population of nucleic acids derived from one or more cells from ~~[[a]] the normal control sample;~~ and

determining relative hybridization of the first array of probes to the first population of nucleic acids ~~in the first array to the~~ relative hybridization of the second array of probes to the second population of nucleic acids ~~in the second array.~~

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 11, wherein the first and second population of nucleic acids are ~~[[is]]~~ RNA.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 11, wherein the first and second population of nucleic acids are ~~[[is]]~~ DNA.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 11, wherein ~~one or more~~ the first population of nucleic acids is amplified prior to contacting to the first array of probes or the second population of nucleic acids is amplified prior to contacting the second array of probes.

Claims 15-17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7, wherein the ~~level of expression of the marker in the sample~~ is ~~assessed by detecting the presence in the sample of at least one nucleic acid, wherein the nucleic acid comprises the marker.~~

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the nucleic acid is RNA.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein one or more nucleic acids is amplified prior to assessing the sample.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A method for monitoring the progression of oral cancer in a human subject, the method comprising:

detecting in a first sample obtained from the human subject at a first point in time, ~~the~~ expression of ~~at least one~~ a marker selected from a group of markers associated with oral cancer;

detecting in a subsequent sample obtained from the human subject at a subsequent point in time, ~~the~~ expression of the ~~at least one~~ marker, and

comparing the level of expression detected in the first and subsequent detecting samples ~~steps~~; in order to monitor the progression of oral cancer.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 22, wherein the first and the subsequent samples comprise[[s]] cells obtained from the subject.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein the cells are obtained from oral tissue.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein the cells obtained are blood cells.

Claims 26-36 (Canceled)